

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

We are writing to ask you to review and reconsider an important matter that affects the public health and security of the residents of New Jersey.

The Secaucus Public Safety Marina was significantly damaged by Hurricane Sandy and to this day cannot operate at full capacity. The Marina serves two vital public safety units: the Secaucus Fire Department's Marine Unit and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary Flotilla 32. The damage from the hurricane—including a significant buildup of sedimentation and the dispersal of debris from an old barge—has made it difficult, and at times impossible, for the boats that use this marina to operate. This has created a public safety hazard that can only be remedied by dredging the Secaucus marina and the removing the obstructing debris in the vicinity. This critical disaster recovery assistance will bring the Marina back into full operating capacity as a crucial asset that supports fire response, water rescue, homeland security patrols, and emergency response.

Our offices have received multiple documents from the Secaucus Fire Department, the Commander of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 32, the Mayor of Secaucus, and other parties regarding the condition of the Secaucus Public Safety Marina immediately before and after Hurricane Sandy. The evidence they present demonstrates that before Hurricane Sandy, the Marina was working at full capacity with the Secaucus Fire Department's deep-draft Fire-Rescue Boat and all vessels of the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 32 able to launch and dock safely throughout the entire daily tide cycle. Following Hurricane Sandy, that is no longer true and it is now impossible to launch or dock almost any vessel except at full high-tide. This has severely diminished the ability of the first responders stationed in the marina to perform their duties. Given that the Marine Unit performed four life-saving rescue operations in the Hackensack River during the 2012 boating season, it is imperative to make these repairs quickly.

We believe that this matter deserves your full attention and expedited action to get Hurricane Sandy-related sedimentation dredged and debris removed from the Secaucus Public Safety Marina. As this is a matter of public safety, it is important to act quickly. You will have our full support in moving forward with this project, and we look forward to your timely response and plan of action to resolve this matter.



Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
United States Congressman